

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants | : | Culbert et al. |
| App. No | : | 10/623,193 |
| Filed | : | July 18, 2003 |
| For | : | METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SPINAL FIXATION |
| Examiner | : | Anuradha Ramana |
| Art Unit | : | 3775 |
| Conf No. | : | 2665 |

AMENDMENT**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The present Amendment and remarks are in response to the final Office Action dated July 22, 2009. Please amend the above-referenced patent Application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.